

Assessment of Post-Adoption Resources in Washington County 2007

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Adoption Exchange has a toll free number and website for information and resources about post-adoption information and services throughout the state of Utah. The information gathered during the assessment of post-adoption resources for each region of Utah will be available on the Adoption Exchange website. They can be reached at 1-866-872-7212 www.utdcfsadopt.org/.
- Adoption Connection Newsletter is sent to all DCFS adoptive families receiving subsidy. The newsletter is designed to have current Utah specific information regarding resources and adoption issues.
- DCFS in Washington County sends out a newsletter for adoptive parents in their area.
- Information Resource Cards that have family resources in the area are available through Child Abuse Prevention Team.
- Utah Cares at www.utahcares.utah.gov has many human service resources throughout Utah. To contact them by telephone call 211.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Cluster Groups

- The cluster group in Washington County is facilitated by Chantal. She can be contacted at 435-986-8010. Debbie Hofhines at the Utah Foster Care Foundation, 801-656-8065, can be contacted for more information regarding cluster groups or educational training.
- The Foster/ Adoptive Family Association has changed their representative. Contact the Provo office at 801-373-3006 for current information about the organization and the new representative.
- LDS Family Services has an Adoptive Parent Support Group for members of the LDS faith.

Specialized Groups

- Southern Utah Autism Group has a chapter in Washington County.
- CHADD is a support and educational program for parents who have children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. They can be reached at 435-673-4473.

GAP: St. George seems to have few services for specialty groups to help support parents who have children with challenges.

Children's Support Groups

- Leisure Services Department in St. George has children's groups. For more information call 435-634-5860.
- Dixie College has children's activities and play groups. They can be reached at 435-652-7675.
- Workforce Services in the Western Regional office has a Youth Council that provides educational groups for youth. The purpose is to eliminate barriers to employment. Call at 435-674-3800 and ask for the Youth Council.
- Youth Academy has a week-long training course for youth to prevent crime.

GAP: There are no known regularly scheduled support groups for children who have been adopted.

Chat Rooms

- Adoption Exchange has links to nationally based chat rooms for adoptive parents at www.utdcfsadopt.org/.

Culture Groups

Families for African American Awareness meet several times a year. The contact person is Stacy Farmer at 801-299-0673.

- India support group is comprised of parents who have adopted children from India. They meet for potluck dinners or picnics several times a year. Contact Joan Auger at 801-547-0852
- Korean Culture Camp has an organized camp once a year for children adopted from Korea. Families meet another time for a potluck dinner. Contact Gary or Beth Beutler at 801-280-6559.
- Russian Adoption Support meets quarterly for educational classes and family activities. Contact Jenny Davis at 801-222-8897.
- South American Culture Group meets twice a year for family activities. Contact Keith or Kathy Syndergaard at 801-756-5656.

RESPITE CARE

1 - 4 Hour Scheduled Respite

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most adoptive parents in Washington County.
- Common activities such as scouts, sports, and church activities can provide regular breaks for parents while their children are involved in the programs. A list of many local groups and activities as well as child care resources may be obtained through the Western Region Child Care Resource and Referral service at 1-888-344-4896 (toll free).
- DCFS Post-Adoption Services gives names of trained respite care homes and will reimburse the adoptive parents for the costs.
- A cluster group is being developed in St. George. Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in other regions. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.) For information call Debbie Hofhines at the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 801-656-8065.
- The Family Support Center in St. George will schedule respite care at their facility for children who are infant - 11 years old. Respite care is available based on space at the time of the request. Call Diane Tarbox at 435-674-4111.

Day Breaks

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by many adoptive parents.
- DCFS Post-Adoption Services gives names of trained respite care homes and will reimburse the adoptive parents for the costs.
- A cluster group is being developed in St. George. Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in other regions. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.) For information call Debbie Hofhines at the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 435-656-8065.
- The Family Support Center in St. George will schedule respite care at their facility for children who are infant - 11 years old. Respite care is available based on space at the time of the request. Call Diane Tarbox at 435-674-4111.

Overnight Breaks - Weekend Breaks

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by many adoptive parents.
- DCFS Post-Adoption Services gives names of trained respite care homes and will reimburse the adoptive parents for the costs.
- A cluster group is being developed in St. George. Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in other regions. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite

care exchange with foster parents.) For information call Debbie Hofhines at the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 801-656-8065.

- The Family Support Center in St. George will schedule respite care at their facility for children who are infant - 11 years old. Respite care is available based on space at the time of the request. A parent can schedule from 1 - 72 hours. Call Diane Tarbox at 435-674-4111.

Parent - to - Parent

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by many adoptive parents.
- Biological siblings' adoptive parents are used as respite care by some adoptive parents.
- Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in other regions. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)

Immediate Crisis Respite

- Family Support Centers were established to provide immediate crisis respite care for up to 72 hours for children infant - 11 years old.
- Youth Crisis Center can provide immediate crisis respite for youth ages 10 -18 years old. The youth must be referred by law enforcement, DCFS, or Southwest Mental Health Center.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Counselors who Specialize in Adoption

- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health is the Medicaid provider for St. George. Brent Demille and Duane Jarvis at Southwest Mental Health have participated in a 2-day AdoptCare workshop regarding clinical issues for adoptive families.
- DCFS Post-Adoption worker, John Worthington, works exclusively with adoption related family issues. He can provide family counseling for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS or he can provide the Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption.

Note: The Southwest Center and the DCFS Post-Adoption worker would be very open to working with an adoptive parent as an adoptive parent mentor for a Response Team Model.

Family Focused Treatment

- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health, the Medicaid provider in St. George, works with the whole family. Family work is the main focus of agency. They can be reached at 435-634-5600.
- DCFS Post-Adoption worker, John Worthington, works exclusively with adoption related family issues. He can provide family counseling for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS or he can provide the Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption. He can be reached at 435-867-2760.

Home-Based

- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health, the Medicaid provider in St. George, has provided home-based assessment of the families strengths and also has provided home-based counseling in crisis situations.
- DCFS Post-Adoption worker, John Worthington, works exclusively with adoption related family issues. He can provide family counseling for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS or he can provide the Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption.

Respond Within 24 Hours to Crisis

- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health, the Medicaid provider in St. George, has a 24-hour crisis line for families and the crisis worker can try to reach a therapist for the adoptive family.
- DCFS Post-Adoption unit can respond within 24 hours.

Family Preservation

- DCFS Post-Adoption worker, John Worthington, works exclusively with adoption related family issues. He can provide family counseling for any adoptive family who adopted through DCFS or he can provide the Family Preservation focus for those who are considering disrupting or dissolving their adoption.

After School and School Treatment Programs

- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health, the Medicaid provider in St. George, has a weekly pre-school children's group at the Headstart program.
- Southwest Center has a weekly children's social skills group for children 5 - 12 years old called Second Step.
- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health has a weekly group for youth 12 - 18 years old to address social skills and oppositional behaviors. The group is called Why Try.
- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health has summer programs for each of the above-mentioned groups that run 3 hours per week.
- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health provides a respite care program for youth who cannot manage in a group setting. The respite care is once a week for 3 - 6 hours. The respite care worker may help the youth with school work and/or social skills until the youth can join a group.
- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health has a peer mentor program in the high school called Reach. It is supervised by a mental health counselor. It is a prevention program provides that teaches peer counseling as well as conducting group counseling in the school setting.
- Southwest Center for Behavioral Health has provided other groups as needed. They have conducted weekly anger management groups and family groups to address sexual abuse. Youth may be conjointly in group and family counseling at any one time.

Residential Treatment

- There are no residential treatment programs paid through Medicaid in Washington County. If a child is a threat to self or others they may be admitted to a psychiatric ward of a hospital until he or she is considered stabilized.
- There are residential treatment programs for private payment. Medicaid carve-out may apply to qualifying private treatment programs for adopted youth.